

CLAIMS

1. A device for purifying the exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine comprising:

5 a particulate filter arranged in the exhaust system, which carry a catalyst for absorbing and reducing NO<sub>x</sub>, said catalyst absorbing NO<sub>x</sub> when the air-fuel ratio in the surrounding atmosphere thereof is lean and releasing the absorbed NO<sub>x</sub> to purify NO<sub>x</sub> by reduction when said air-fuel ratio is the stoichiometric or rich;  
10 and

a catalytic apparatus for purifying NO<sub>x</sub> arranged in the exhaust system upstream said particulate filter, which has an oxidation function.

15 2. A device for purifying the exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, further comprising bypassing means to make possible the exhaust gas bypass said particulate filter downstream said catalytic apparatus.

20 3. A device for purifying the exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine according to claim 2, wherein said catalytic apparatus carries said catalyst for absorbing and reducing NO<sub>x</sub>, during the recovery process of the SO<sub>x</sub> pollution of said catalytic apparatus, said bypassing means makes the exhaust gas bypass said particulate filter.

25 4. A device for purifying the exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine according to claim 2, wherein said catalytic apparatus carries said catalyst for absorbing and reducing NO<sub>x</sub>, immediately after the finishing of the recovery process of the SO<sub>x</sub> pollution of said catalytic apparatus, said bypassing means does not make the exhaust gas bypass said particulate filter and thus the exhaust gas passes through said particulate filter.

30 35 5. A device for purifying the exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine comprising:

a particulate filter arranged in the

exhaust system, which carries an oxidation catalyst; and  
a catalytic apparatus for purifying NO<sub>x</sub>  
arranged in the exhaust system upstream said particulate  
filter.

5 6. A device for purifying the exhaust gas of an  
internal combustion engine according to claim 5, wherein  
said particulate filter carries an oxygen absorbing  
agent.